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NFAC #2473/81

27 April 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

FROM : Coordinator for Academic Relations, NFAC

SUBJECT : Reporting Requirements Involved in Foreign
Affairs Research ☐

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1. As each addressee is aware, I have been contacting you every three months over the past year for contributions to the quarterly report for the State Department on external contracts negotiated by this Agency in the field of Foreign Affairs Research (FAR). Some of you are probably well aware of the history of this program but others may have become involved only recently and could be unaware of some of the requirements involved. For the latter, in particular, I am attaching a copy of the Department's most recent edition of its policies and procedures statement and a copy of the Agency's ☐ which attempted to outline our reporting responsibilities as they existed in 1969. ☐

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2. Please note in particular:

a. That the program is mandated by Presidential directive and a memo from the Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs--it is not voluntary (II.,A); ☐

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b. That only external contracts are involved--no in-house products; ☐

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c. That there is a working definition from the State Department of FAR (see Annex 1) which has varied little over the last several years. ☐

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d. That this Agency must seek review and clearance of all FAR projects (1) involving foreign travel or contact with foreign nationals in the US or abroad or (2) when a project may have potential adverse effects on US foreign relations (IV.,A); ☐

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Research []

25X1 e. That the request for review and clearance must be
submitted before a contract is signed or grant awarded
(VI.,A); []

25X1 f. That all FAR contracts, whether reviewed or not,
must be reported to the Department on a quarterly basis,
i.e., at the end of the quarter in which the contract is
initiated. (This, of course, is the basis for my quarterly
queries to you). []

25X1 3. You should be aware of another decision from the Comptroller of
CIA: all funding information for CIA external research contracts on
foreign affairs is classified SECRET. Please be aware of this restriction
when submitting your quarterly reports. Annually I shall ask you for
cost information on contracts originated by your component during the year
so that I can pass to the Department a classified total Agency figure
for our external FAR program. []

25X1 4. Several years ago the Coordinator for Academic Relations was
designated by the Director as the CIA representative to the Department of
State on matters relating to the coordination and review of Agency-sponsored
external research on foreign affairs. Obviously I shall be available at
any time to assist you in interpreting these policies and procedures and
will forward requests for clearance as well as the quarterly reports on
external research contracts. []

25X1 5. As you will note, [] is antiquated and badly in need of
revision to reflect the present system. An inter-directorate committee
worked for many months in an attempt to construct a new version of 51-12
and eventually succeeded last year only to have the effort founder on
objections by the Assistant General Counsel. A new attempt at rewriting
[] appears likely. I shall keep you informed. []

25X1 6. Please pass this information to your alternate or successor as
FAR representatives for your component. Where appropriate you may also
wish to make this information available to senior officers of your
Office or Directorate. []

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Attachments:
As stated

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POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
FOR
DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AND COORDINATION
OF
GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED RESEARCH ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS^{1/}

Purpose: To state the source and nature of the Secretary of State's responsibilities for the review and coordination of Government-sponsored research on foreign affairs; to specify the concomitant responsibilities and procedures agreed to by sponsoring agencies.

I. DEFINITION OF GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESEARCH

Research programs and studies in the social and behavioral sciences dealing with international relations, or with foreign areas and peoples, whether conducted in the United States or abroad, which are supported by contracts or grants awarded by agencies of the United States. (A more detailed definition is provided in Annex I.) In-house research is not included.

II. AUTHORIZATION AND ORGANIZATION

A. Mandate

A letter from the President to the Secretary of State, dated August 2, 1965, established the responsibility for the review for sensitivity reasons of Government-sponsored research on foreign affairs. It said:

I am determined that no Government sponsorship of foreign area research should be undertaken which in the judgment of the Secretary of State would adversely affect United States foreign relations. Therefore I am asking you to establish effective procedures which will enable you to assure the propriety of Government-sponsored social science research in the area of foreign policy.

In addition, an April 27, 1977, memorandum to all Department and Agency heads from the Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs assigns to the Secretary of State "responsibility for

^{1/} This document, first issued on January 16, 1978, replaces the "Procedures for Department of State Review of Government-Sponsored Foreign Affairs Research" adopted on November 18, 1965, and published in the Federal Register (Vol. 31, No. 7, January 12, 1966, pp. 358-60).

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the coordination of foreign affairs external research.../including/ information exchange, documentation, publication and other activities required to minimize duplication of effort; joint funding; measures to assure quality, utility and availability; and other matters requiring interagency consultation."

This document is designed to assist in the discharge of both the Secretary's coordination responsibilities and his responsibility to avoid adverse effects on U.S. foreign relations. As his representative in the discharge of these responsibilities, the Secretary has designated the Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR).

B. Department of State Research Council

To implement the President's 1965 directive, the Secretary of State created the Department of State Research Council (DSRC) and designated the Director of INR as Chairman to assist him in formulating policies for State Department review and clearance of project proposals submitted by other Government agencies. In addition to its Chairman, the DSRC is composed of the Director of the Policy Planning Staff, the Legal Adviser, and, as appropriate, representatives of the regional and functional bureaus. The DSRC and its Chairman are assisted by the Office of Long-Range Assessments and Research (INR/AR/LAR).

C. DSRC Chairman

The Chairman of the DSRC is responsible for final clearance of proposed projects submitted by sponsoring agencies. The Chairman keeps the Secretary of State informed of the DSRC's major deliberations and actions. The Chairman may issue guidelines to aid agencies in fulfilling the requirements of these procedures.

III. PURPOSE AND LIMITS OF REVIEW

The DSRC will review research projects only for the purpose of avoiding adverse effects on U.S. foreign relations. The risks of possible adverse effects on foreign relations will be weighed against the value of the research project to the U.S. Government. Because the sponsoring agency is the best judge of the value of a proposal to its own mission, its views will be carefully considered. If the DSRC questions the propriety of any research project, it will consult with the sponsoring agency before making a final determination. Clearance of projects by the DSRC is not necessarily an endorsement of the need, method, or value of the project.

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IV. CRITERIA FOR REVIEW AND CLEARANCE

A. Military and Foreign Affairs Agency^{2/} Projects

All foreign affairs research projects that at any stage involve foreign travel or contact with foreign nationals in the United States or abroad, must be submitted for review. Such other projects as the sponsoring agency determines may have potential adverse effects on U.S. foreign relations (see IV. D. 1. below) should be submitted for review.

B. Domestic Agency^{3/} Projects

Domestic agencies must determine, on the basis of potential sensitivity as described in section IV.D. below, which of their foreign affairs research projects should be submitted for review.

C. All Agencies--Continuing Programs and General Purpose Grants

1. Agency representatives will keep the DSRC informed about continuing foreign affairs research programs carried out by research organizations receiving principal support from their agencies. After consultation with an agency, the DSRC may ask to review specific projects. In cases where such research organizations are not required to clear their research plans or projects with sponsoring agencies, the DSRC shall not require review of specific projects. However, the DSRC should be kept informed of all foreign affairs research projects undertaken as part of these programs.

2. Grants to academic institutions for general purposes (such as expansion of facilities, faculty, or curriculum) need not be submitted to the DSRC for review. However, the DSRC should be informed about such grants if any funds are to be used to support foreign affairs research by the recipient institution.

D. Project Sensitivity

1. Projects which involve neither foreign travel nor contact with foreign nationals may also be sensitive if they deal with subjects under active negotiation or currently in dispute.

^{2/} Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Department of Defense, Central Intelligence Agency, International Development Cooperation Agency, Department of State, U.S. International Communication Agency.

^{3/} Grants of the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Institutes of Health, and the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration, as well as grants awarded under the Fulbright-Hays program or the National Defense Education Act, have been exempted from provisions of this section.

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2. Projects which involve foreign travel or contact with foreign nationals are especially likely to be sensitive if they:

a. Deal with the authority, effectiveness, or policies of a foreign government, with the nature and relationships of politically significant internal institutions, or with the attitude of the people toward the government (especially if the government is characterized by instability);

b. Involve large-scale or formalized surveys or interviews; or

c. Are conducted by large teams or which cover extensive or remote areas of a foreign country.

3. Projects which involve foreign travel or contact with foreign nationals are less likely to be sensitive if they:

a. Deal with historical rather than contemporary subjects unless there are contemporary implications;

b. Gather information in the host country through documentary investigation rather than interviews or questionnaires;

c. Have the approval of interested agencies of the host country government;

d. Involve professional participation by host country nationals as researchers; or

e. Are not designed to contribute specifically to the operating mission of an agency of the U.S. Government.

V. REVIEW AND CLEARANCE PROCEDURES

A. Time Required

Fifteen working days are normally allotted for DSRC review of agency projects. Projects will be considered cleared unless other DSRC action is communicated to the agency within 15 working days after the required information is received for review.

B. Information Required

1. Title and brief description of project.

2. Name of sponsoring agency or agencies (including information on any funding by other agencies).

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3. Contractor, estimated cost, and principal researchers.
4. Detailed information on project: hypotheses to be investigated, methods, schedules, types of findings anticipated, countries or regions covered.
5. If project involves field work abroad, names of researchers, indication of time of proposed field work, and extent and types of contact with foreign nationals.
6. Extent to which discussion with U.S. diplomatic mission has already been held in the formulation of project proposal.
7. Classification of project and proposed disposition of reports.

C. Types of Clearance Actions

1. Cleared
2. Cleared with conditions
3. Not cleared (with statement of reasons)

(Once a project is cleared, normally there will be no further State Department action, although other agencies remain under obligation to inform the DSRC of changes in the character of the research, and, in the event of substantial changes or significant developments in the research, the DSRC retains the option to review the project.)

D. Appeals

An agency may request reconsideration of a decision, in which case the DSRC will accept the agency's appeal and act promptly on it. Should the decision still be unsatisfactory to an agency, the agency head may consult with the Secretary of State.

VI. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES^{4/}

A. Submission of Projects for Review

Agency representatives will be responsible for collecting information on projects their agencies propose to support, making determinations as

^{4/} To avoid duplicate reporting, or failure to report, in cases of collaborative programs and projects involving two or more agencies, that agency which actually signs contract or grant agreements should assume these responsibilities.

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to which projects require DSRC clearance, and submitting appropriate project information to the DSRC for review before a contract is signed or grant awarded.^{5/}

B. Timely Reporting on All Projects

In conjunction with the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange (SSIE), LAR publishes Government-Sponsored Research on Foreign Affairs: A Quarterly Report of Project Information. To maintain this inventory of current projects, information on each project, whether or not previously reviewed by the DSRC, should be reported to LAR (see address on page 7) within 10 working days after the awarding of a contract or grant, or as soon thereafter as possible. Alternatively, those agencies which elect to submit their project information on a quarterly basis, may do so.

1. Classified project information should be submitted on Foreign Affairs Research Summary form DS-1728, or comparable agency form.

2. Unclassified project information should be submitted on the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange Project Form, or comparable agency form.

3. Agencies which automatically submit information on all of their projects to SSIE, whether or not they are foreign affairs-related, do not need to send duplicate project summary forms to LAR.

C. Submission of Completed Studies

Agency representatives should ensure that one (1) copy of all studies and reports (classified and unclassified) delivered to the agency as products of its external research projects (whether reviewed by the DSRC or not) is sent to the Defense Technical Information Center, DTIC/DDR, Cameron Station, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Each paper sent to DTIC should be sent under cover of a transmittal indicating what distribution is authorized by the agency. Unclassified papers not restricted in their distribution will automatically be deposited as well (by DTIC) with the National Technical Information Service, Department of Commerce, where they will be accessible to the general public.

D. Other

Agency representatives should supply annual funding information on their agencies' programs, serve as facilitators of cooperative projects, and otherwise be available for consultation on matters of interagency coordination.

^{5/} This is not required in those cases where agencies use other established procedures to clear their research projects with a policy bureau in the Department of State (e.g., PL-480 programs) or with a U.S. Embassy (e.g., A.I.D. projects initiated and funded by field missions). However, the coordination representatives should inform the Chairman of the DSRC by memoranda of the clearance arrangements being used by their agencies in such cases.

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VII. STAFF ASSISTANCE

The staff of INR/AR/LAR is available for advance consultation on the possible sensitivity of projects and associated foreign travel. Since topics of no apparent sensitivity on general principle may prove to be quite sensitive in a particular time or place, advance consultation often serves to expedite projects and assure that a proposed study can in fact be carried out. Agency representatives having doubts about the potential sensitivity of projects or associated foreign travel are encouraged to seek consultation.

All submissions of information and documents and requests for assistance should be directed to:

Office of External Research, INR/AR/LAR
Attn: Special Assistant (Research Review
and Interagency Coordination)
Room 6842
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520
Tel: 235-8079

FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESEARCH

Working DefinitionSubject Matter

Foreign and domestic affairs are increasingly difficult to sort out, both in the United States and in other countries. Actions and attributes of the United States, governmental and private, shape both foreign and domestic affairs. For these reasons, a broad rather than narrow definition of foreign affairs research is required if knowledge and analyses adequate to current and emergent realities are to be developed.

Therefore, a foreign affairs research program, project or activity is one that focuses, in part or entirely, on recent, contemporary, or future:

- Attributes, ideas or behavior of non-U.S. individuals, groups, societies, or nations. This includes not only studies of discrete foreign areas or peoples but also multinational studies and cross-national comparative studies. It also includes more distant historical studies that draw parallels with or lessons applicable to the contemporary scene.
- Relations between and among nations or relations between and among individuals or groups located in different nations.
- Ways in which U.S. individuals, groups, ideas, attributes or activities bear on the position or behavior of the United States in international affairs.

Research Approaches and Methods

As in other categories of human and social affairs, knowledge about foreign affairs neither fits neatly into disciplinary categories nor emerges exclusively from a limited number of specifiable approaches, methods, techniques, et cetera.

- Generally, foreign affairs research uses the approaches and methods of one or more of the basic or applied social, behavioral, or policy sciences. But, alternatively or in addition, it may also use the approaches and methods of one or more of the humanities. It should be specially stressed that these approaches and methods can be applied to the foreign affairs aspects, uses, or implications of the physical and life sciences and of technologies (weapons, energy, industrial, agricultural, medical, etc.); studies of this nature are an increasingly important part of foreign affairs research.
- As in many other fields, foreign affairs research can be categorized as pure, exploratory, basic, applied, developmental, evaluative, policy, etc. All such categories should be included when foreign affairs is the subject matter.

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